DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : It varies between Re. 1 and Re. 1 Chs. 7 per cooly.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know the rate of wages provided in the P. W. D. Schedule?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : The answer is given in connection with another question. From 26 chuckrams to Re. 1 and Chs. 7 have been paid.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know whether they will be amended?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : They are being amended.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR : May I know how many special officers are engaged in it?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN : Three.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE (*Meenachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): As the honourable President said, if there is the intervention of the Government of India, do the Government of India pay anything towards the expenses of the aerodrome?

PRESIDENT : If this Government are willing to pay part of the profits, they too will of course pay some part. It is expected to meet the expenditure among these three Governments—the Governments of Mysore, Cochin and Travancore.

Aerodrome at Trivandrum.

3. *MR. K. A. MATHEW (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount estimated for the construction of the Aerodrome at Trivandrum;

(*b*) the amount spent for it in 1121;

(*c*) whether the workmen for it were recruited from outside Trivandrum;

(*d*) if so, the places, from where they came and the amount spent by the P. W. D. on their behalf in taking them over to Trivandrum;

(*e*) what is the staff employed to be in charge of this work;

(*f*) whether any work budgeted for the year had to be suspended or given up in favour of the Aerodrome;

(*g*) if so, the amount of money thus diverted for the Aerodrome; and

(*h*) what were the reasons that weighed with the Government in starting the Aerodrome construction at this juncture?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN :

(*a*) About Rs. 12 lakhs.

(*b*) Rs. 4·56 lakhs up to 15-11-1121.

(*c*) Departmental gang coolies were temporarily directed to the Aerodrome work.

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[Dewan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan]

(*d*) (i) P. W. D. Divisions, Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Kottayam and Alwaye.

(ii) The correct amount cannot be furnished as all the invoices in connection with the transport of the coolies have not been received.

(*e*) One temporary Executive Engineer, three Sub-Division Officers and necessary subordinate staff.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (*f*).

(*h*) Importance and urgency of the work.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: With reference to the answer to the last question—question (h): "Importance and urgency of the work," may I know whether the Government are aware that there are many important and urgent works required by the masses of the people of the country for which the people have been languishing and which the Government have not been doing for the last so many years? Why was this work taken up so urgently?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is in order to fit in with the All India Scheme of general improvement of postwar reconstruction.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Should that be done at the cost of the urgent and important works to be done for the people of the country?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Other works have not been allowed to suffer because of the importance of the aerodrome works.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether we have not been stressing upon the Government the need of building many works which lie unfinished and building ryot's roads and many other bridges and culverts in Travancore?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: All that could be done is being done gradually.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Is the honourable member aware that nothing has been done last year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I admit that the position is not very satisfactory, but it was due to circumstances which can be only gradually improved.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Was not the aerodrome the first to be taken up?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Exactly.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the normal work has not suffered from the removal of the coolies from other divisions to the aerodrome works?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It did not.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathoor*): May I know the circumstances which prevented the work in the country roads from being taken up?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Advocate-General*): It does not arise.

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MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know when the road on the southern side of the aerodrome will be opened for traffic?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is already open to traffic.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: I think it is closed.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: May I know whether the road was not damaged and has become totally unusable?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I admit it has been damaged, but it is not due to the aerodrome. It is in use and is as well as might be with the traffic on it.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether there was not a rumour—said to be one of the reasons—that the Dewan wanted to travel from here to Delhi or Bombay?

PRESIDENT: It is quite easy for the Dewan to take his car to Ernakulam and then start from there by air. But it is improper and is an insinuation to make such statements, because after all, even the Dewans have some conscience in these matters, and to suggest that because the Dewan wanted to spare himself the motor journey from Trivandrum to Ernakulam or Trivandrum to Coimbatore, he ordered an aerodrome to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs is hardly befitting the dignity or decency of the House.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether there was any truth in the rumour that was afloat?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The fact that such rumours are given credence to by the honourable members of this House and questions are asked on it is a thing not befitting the dignity or the decency of this House.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the coolies who were taken from Alwaye for this work are still at Trivandrum?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Not one of them.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): Is it not necessary for any progressive Government to have aerodromes?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Certainly, it is necessary.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: How many weeks is it now since the coolies came from Alwaye?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The coolies were here for only about three weeks.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know who worked in the place of those coolies taken from Alwaye?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Instead of hanging about there and drawing a pension they were brought down and put down to work and labour taken out of them. They went back to enjoy their holidays.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: What is the basis of this statement, "they were hanging about the roads."

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It is my personal observation, and I have checked the fact.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know whether the Chief Engineer has checked the spot?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir; even yesterday.

MR. K. M. PAUL (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether the distribution of men and material from various divisions has not prejudicially affected the situation?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No, sir.

Aerodrome at Trivandrum.

4. * MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount that has been spent up-to-date for the construction of the Aerodrome at Trivandrum; and

(*b*) the amount now estimated as necessary for its completion?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Rs. 4·56 lakhs up to end of 15-11-1121.

(*b*) About Rs. 12 lakhs excluding land acquisition charges.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the coolies engaged in connection with the Perunchani works have been called to Trivandrum?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Why was it that the urgency with which the ærodrome work has been carried on has not been shown in connection with the minor irrigation works for the first ten months of this year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It did not arise then. We were getting through the normal programme, and this question was taken on hand because there was the intention of inaugurating the new year for the ærodrome from the 1st October.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI; May I know whether the Government were considering the question of minor irrigation as not urgent during the first ten months of the year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Not by any chance. Due attention is being paid to the promotion of minor irrigation.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Why was it that practically nothing was done during the first ten months of the year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It would not be quite correct to say so.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Has any work been done during the first ten months of the year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Quite a lot.

PRESIDENT: The question is with regard to the ærodrome, and you cannot incidentally put a series of questions on other matters.

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